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DAN 434L.01: World Dance

Nicole Bradley Browning

University of Montana - Missoula, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu

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DAN 434L World Dance
University of Montana Department of Drama/Dance
Tuesday/Thursday 9:10-10:30 am McGill 125
Spring 2007

Instructor: Associate Professor Nicole Bradley Browning
Office: PAR/TV 185, x2682
Email: nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu
Hours: T: 11-12.30 pm
R: 11-1 pm
or call/email for appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of dance, a universal art found in all human societies, is reflective of cultural history, aesthetics and belief systems. To more completely comprehend dance of diverse cultures, students will open themselves to the society and time period from which the dance evolved. Through this study, students will better understand dance as: an emblem of cultural identity, social order, power and gender-specific behavior; an expression of religious worship and/or ritual; a classical art form; and as a medium for personal expression in western and non-western cultures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance one's understanding of the various political, social and sacred functions of dance cross culturally and through specific time periods.
2. To increase one's knowledge of historical facts and events relative to the development of dance in western and non-western cultures.
3. To provide emerging dance artists with sources of inspiration which exemplify physical, intellectual and emotional qualities of dance.
4. To introduce and exercise scholarly practices in dance including: research, writing and critique.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course stimulates active learning through movement, lecture, discussion, reading, research, writing, dance viewing and presentations.

REQUIRED TEXT

All course readings are available on reserve at the Mansfield Library. It is each student's responsibility to print each article to maintain in a three-ring binder. Students are required to have a three ring binder and notebook for this class.

Additional readings as assigned by instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Short objective reading quizzes will be given following each section of assigned reading.
2. It is expected that students view as much "live" dance as possible. Written critiques and discussion will follow performances. Students are required to attend and critique 2 performances, one of which must be the annual American Indian Powwow celebration at the University of Montana Adam's Center in April.

3. A midterm and final exam will test assimilation and understanding of material assigned through readings and lecture. Generally this exam is designed as a take-home exam. Questions may include: factual information, historical analysis and cultural interpretation.
4. A final project or paper is required on a subject approved by the instructor. To aid the research process, each week (for a period of three weeks) a two-page paper summarizing progress, materials gathered and creative thoughts on the subject will be submitted to the instructor. The two-page papers must include at least 3 separate sources that can range from books and magazines to interviews, videos, paintings and sculptures. Strict attention must be given to quotes and footnotes for each progress paper. A final project honoring a culture through dance is also an option. Students choosing this option may choose to choreograph and perform a dance or lead the class through a choreographed group dance that exemplifies and teaches about the culture through the basic elements of movement: body, space, time and energy. Students choosing this option are expected to report research in weekly papers as well. Research will be presented to the class regardless of the format (i.e. movement project or paper presentation).

GRADING

• Attendance and class participation (discussion and movement)	10%
• Reading/Quizzes	10%
• Critiques (2)	10%
• Midterm Exam	20%
• Progress Reports (2)	10%
• Final Project or Paper	20%
• Final Exam	20%

* Important note: Two absences are permitted during the semester. Each additional absence warrants a lowering of your grade 1/3 letter point (i.e. A becomes A-).

Academic Misconduct and the Student Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321>.

Drama/Dance Policy

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html>.